

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 35 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence:

wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises an amino acid sequence at least ~~[[80%]]~~ 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to ~~at least one of~~ apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

28. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof ~~is capable of binding at least one of~~ binds to apolipoprotein B containing LDL cholesterol and binds to apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL cholesterol (oxLDL cholesterol).

29. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) or said apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL) occur in humans ~~occurring in human and other animal bodies have complementary carbohydrate structures.~~

30. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a functional fragment of said antibody.

31. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said functional fragment is selected from the group consisting of ~~[[V_H]]~~ F_V, Fab, Fab' and F(ab')₂.

32. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to claim 27, wherein ~~said antibody or functional fragment thereof includes an amino acid sequence of a variable region of~~ the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, ~~or an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the~~

~~heavy chain (V_H) at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:3, or is at least 80% identical to both of said amino acid sequences of said variable regions of said light chain (V_L) and said heavy chain (V_H).~~

33. (Cancel)

34. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said functional fragment contains an amino acid fragment of the light chain (V_L) variable region or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (Cancel)

36. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof~~ is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain ~~[(V_L)] (V_H)~~ variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof~~ is at least ~~[[85%]]~~ 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence~~ is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

39. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence~~ is at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

40. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a monoclonal antibody.

41. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is produced by a hybridoma.

42. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence, wherein the light chain (V_L) ~~[[or]]~~ and heavy chain variable region sequences comprise SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, respectively, and wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

43. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the ~~[[the]]~~ heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises a complementary-determining region (CDR), ~~selected from set forth as~~ [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~[[or]]~~ and Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~[[or]]~~ and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.], and wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

44.-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

49. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim ~~[[27]]~~ 43, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least ~~[[95%]]~~ 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least ~~[[98%]]~~ 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

52. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 43, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence~~ comprises Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2), amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3), amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~or Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.~~

53. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 43, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~and the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence~~ comprises Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2), amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, and Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3), amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~and Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.~~

54. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3, and wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

55. (Currently Amended) A purified polypeptide, comprising a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence at least ~~[[80%]]~~ 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, wherein said polypeptide binds to ~~at least one of~~ apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

56. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least ~~[[85%]]~~ 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to ~~at least one of~~ apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

57. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to ~~at least one of~~ apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

58. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least ~~[[95%]]~~ 99% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to ~~at least one of~~ apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

59. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~[[or]]~~ and Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~[[or]]~~ and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.